

~~TOP SECRET~~  
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION(b)(6)  
(b)(7)(C)  
OGA

FBI

Approved for Release by NSA on 07-03-2014,  
FOIA Case # 42771

## NSA STAFF PROCESSING FORM

TO D/DIR	EXREG CONTROL NUMBER	KCC CONTROL NUMBER	
THRU N5P		ACTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	EXREG SUSPENSE
SUBJECT Release of Names in Venona Messages -		<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	KCC SUSPENSE
DECISION MEMORANDUM		<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	ELEMENT SUSPENSE
DISTRIBUTION OGC, M5J, N5P, N5P5,			
SUMMARY			

~~(FOUO)~~ Because of the significance of the following individuals' activities, the release or protection of their names in the Venona material to be released this month is in question: Joseph Berger, [redacted] [redacted] Helen Koral, [redacted] and Ricardo Setaro. (The protection of Koral and Setaro was debated for the July 1995 release.) Following the rules of release/denial used in the earlier releases, their names would be protected. The sixth exemption of the FOIA requires that private concern be weighed against public interest in determining the need for protection. In the case of these names, we believe there may be circumstances which tip the scales in favor of public interest.

(U) The messages containing these names (highlighted in pink) and arguments for and against release are at the tabs. Please note that some of the names were protected in the first and second releases. If we determine now that they are releasable, they will be released in the current set of documents and reinstated in the previously released documents at a later date. Once we make the "final" release of the translations, we will re-review all of the material to reinstate information which was determined releasable after the documents' initial release. A more complete version of such translations will be provided to the public with an explanation that further analysis indicated that the some information no longer requires protection.

*Research on these potentially releasable names is in progress*

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## COORDINATION/APPROVAL

OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE	OFFICE	NAME AND DATE	SECURE PHONE
OGC					
M5J					

ORIGINATOR

Rona Lerner

*Rona Lerner*

ORG.

N5P5

PHONE (Secure)

963-5827

DATE PREPARED

02/07/96

FORM A6796 FEB 84

Declassify and Mark

Classified by:

Declassified on:

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

removal of enclosures

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

~~TOP SECRET~~

APPENDED DOCUMENTS CONTAIN

CODEWORD MATERIAL

*For Official Use Only*

Joseph Berger (aka Jeremiah Digges)

Rule for protection applied in previous releases:

If truename appears in text in a recruitment context and there is no publicly available information to corroborate, the name is protected.

Rationale for protection: \*

Messages discuss the possibility of Berger's becoming a source for Krafur (i.e., possible recruitment).

Identifying information highlighted in pink would also need to be protected to protect Berger's identity.

Rationale for release:

The case is historically <sup>very</sup> important.

The infiltration of the National Committee of the Democratic Party would also have to be protected since the release of references to the committee would compromise Berger.

DECISION:

Protect Berger and identifying information \_\_\_\_\_

Protect Berger, but release identifying information\_\_\_\_

Release Berger and identifying information \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: We have asked the FBI to check its files for publicly released information which would allow us to argue further for the release of Berger's name. If you decide that the name can be released, then we will not need the FBI information. If you decide against release and the FBI provides additional information that shows that Berger has been publicly implicated in espionage, we will release.

[REDACTED]

Rule for protection applied in previous releases:

If true name appears in text in a recruitment context and there is no publicly available information to corroborate, the name is protected.

Rationale for protection:

Message discusses the possibility of [REDACTED] becoming a source for Krafur (i.e., possible recruitment).

[REDACTED] would also have to be withheld to protect [REDACTED] identity.

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Rationale for release:

The [REDACTED] controversial, high profile [REDACTED] whose loyalty to the U.S. was questioned by [REDACTED] enemies in the media and Congress.

DECISION:

Protect [REDACTED]

Release [REDACTED]

NOTE: We have asked the FBI to check its files for publicly released information which would allow us to argue further for the release of the [REDACTED] names. If you decide that the names can be released, then we will not need the FBI information. If you decide against release and the FBI provides additional information that shows that the [REDACTED] have been publicly implicated in espionage, we will release.

Helen Koral

Rule for protection applied in previous releases:

If the name appears only in a footnote (i.e., is the result of a government equation), it is protected.

Rationale for protection:

In first release and in these documents name appears only in footnotes.

Rationale for release:

Helen's covername is ART. In one message, ART is erroneously equated to Helen's husband Alexander Koral, whose name is released because he was named by Elizabeth Bentley. By protecting Helen as being equated to ART in the footnote, we are withholding a significant historical fact and allowing erroneous information to become part of the public record.

DECISION:

Protect Helen Koral. \_\_\_\_\_

Release Helen Koral. \_\_\_\_\_

Equally important, Helen Koral replaced Bentley on the Wash ↔ NY KGB courier team. She was to handle material from the Silvermaster net and would be run by KGB officer Olga Khlopova, Beria's personal who reported directly to Beria. Finally the Illegal Resident ALBERT (~~Joe~~ Ihe Akhmerov) was to oversee all this. Big time operation. We ~~could~~ are (or have) releasing all other names in this operation. Interest of history should override.

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Rule for protection applied in previous releases:

If the name appears only in a footnote (i.e., is the result of a government equation), it is protected.

Rationale for protection:

Name appears only in footnotes.

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Rationale for release:

was handled by VARDO/Col. Elizabeth Zubilin (wife of General V. Zubilin). There is much historical interest in Elizabeth Zubilin and her associates.

was employed by Time, Life, Newsweek, CBS and RKO. There is historical interest in the KGB's infiltration of the media.

Additional point:

The  translations were held in an envelope marked  Crowell,  Eyes Only." , an envelope which ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> contained the Hiss and Eleanor Roosevelt messages, and Jack Soble. <sup>Also</sup> ~~all of the~~ <sup>has been considered</sup> a name of historical interest.

DECISION:

Protect Release

Ricardo Setaro

Rule for protection applied in previous releases:

If the name appears only in a footnote (i.e., is the result of a government equation), it is protected.

The rules for release/protection are the same for U.S. and non-U.S. citizens. The exception is that the rules for privacy concerns do not apply to citizens of the Soviet Union and Soviet-bloc countries.

Rationale for protection:

Name appears only in footnotes in first release and in these documents.

Rationale for release:

In the second release, "Setaro" is in text and is released because it is just a last name. The expansion of the name in the footnote was protected as a government equation. As we progress through the documents, however, we are releasing more footnote clarifications of last names appearing in text because the last (true) name in text lends credibility to the government's equation. (This is an issue that should be revisited with an eye towards greater release in the first two sets of documents.)

Setaro is not a U.S. citizen and is an important agent in the major ARTHUR network.

DECISION:

Protect Setaro. \_\_\_\_\_

Release Setaro. \_\_\_\_\_